

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2040

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, WB. NATO

SUBJECT: GDR THREATS RE TRANSIT ROUTES: BAHR'S APPEAL FOR
ALLIED SUPPORT

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS
NOVEMBER 29, FEDERAL PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR BERLIN, FRG MINISTER
EGON BAHR SAID HE HOPED FOR STRONG ALLIED SUPPORT
AT FORTHCOMING NATO MEETING IN DEALING WITH INCREASINGLY
SERIOUS-SOUNDING THREATS BY GDR TO TAKE RESTRICTIVE
MEASURES ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES.

2. BAHR CLAIMED THAT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH
GDR, LATTER WAS THREATENING DRASTIC ACTION, WHICH MIGHT MODIFY
EXISTING REGIMEN ON TRANSIT ROUTES, IF FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT FAILED TO TAKE DECISIVE MEASURES TO
DEAL WITH CONTINUING PROBLEM OF EXFILTRATION.

3. BAHR'S VIEW IS THAT IF GDR CARRIED OUT ITS
THREAT SERIOUS POLITICAL CRISES WOULD RESULT.
HE THEREFORE CONSIDERED IT URGENT THAT ALLIED AND
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GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THEIR BRUSSELS MEETING

PROPERLY ASSESS THE SITUATION AND MAKE APPROPRIATE
EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO BRING HOME TO GDR LEADERSHIP
THAT MATTER WAS SERIOUS AND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH
ACCORDINGLY.

4. I ASKED BAHR WHETHER HE WAS GETTING SIMILAR
SIGNALS FROM THE SOVIETS AND WHETHER HE BELIEVED
THAT GDR WOULD TAKE SUCH ACTION WITHOUT REFERENCE
TO MOSCOW.

5. BAHR SAID HAT THUS FAR THE SOVIETS HAD NOT
RAISED THE SUBJECT NOR HAD THEY ECHOED GDR LINE.
HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED GDR HAD SOME LATITUDE IN THIS
MATTER AND ENOUGH LICENSE TO TAKE CERTAIN KINDS OF
RESTRICTIVE ACTION TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM.

6. WE SUSPECT THAT VAN WELL WILL PROBABLY HAVE
SOMETHING MORE TO SAY ABOUT THIS IN BONN IN
CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING
NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING.

7. WHILE WE ARE INCLINED TO DOUBT THAT GDR
COULD TAKE ACTION BAHR DESCRIBES WITHOUT
REFERENCE TO THE SOVIETS--SINCE IT WOULD
BE IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF QA--WE SHARE HIS
VIEW THAT AN EARLY INDICATION OF ALLIED VIEWS
TO OTHER SIDE, IN SOME APPROPRIATE WAY.
DESIRABLE AND EVEN NECESSARY TO BRING HOME
TO GDR AND SOVIETS NEED FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
OF CONSEQUENCES OF ANY ILL-CONSIDERED ACTION.KLEIN

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